

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 31, 2007.

Claims 1-40 have been cancelled, and new claims 41-58 are added herein.

The specification has been amended to correct various matters raised by the Examiner. A new abstract is provided. In view thereof, withdrawal of the objections to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite and as being improper process claims under 35 U.S.C. §101. The new claims are believed to overcome these rejections.

Claims 24-40 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of German design patent no. 4 02 08 286.9. As evidenced by the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 submitted herewith, the German design patent is Applicant's own work, and therefore is not prior art. See M.P.E.P. §715.01(c) which states "Unless it is a statutory bar, a rejection based on a publication may be overcome by a showing that it was published either by applicant himself/herself or on his/her behalf. In view of Applicant's Rule 132 declaration, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicants' claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the presently pending claims, and to pass this application on to issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 15, 2007